# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
# LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:199
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2002
BAN ON USE OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED SEEDS
ABUL HASNAT KHAN;HANNAN MOLLAH

**Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:**

(a) the countries who have approved the commercial release of genetically modified seeds along with their experience;

(b) whether the Government are aware of the failure of genetically modified seeds in different parts of the country including Baba Amte`s Anandwan;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefore, State-wise;

(d) whether it is still proposed to permit the cultivation of such seeds despite their failure and if so, the reasons therefor ;

(e) whether any requests from certain Multi-National Companies including Aventis have been received regarding clearance for the release of genetically modified organisms and products;

(f) if so, the details indicating response of the Government thereto;

(g) whether study report of the Nonjing Institute of Environmental Sciences ( NIES) in this regard has since been examined;

(h) if so, the extent of damage to be caused to environment; and

(i) the steps taken to ban the use of such seeds in the country ?

## Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R.BAALU)

(a) to (i) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN THE REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (i) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION No. 199 BY SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH AND SHRI ABUL HASNAT KHA REGARDING `BAN ON USE OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED SEEDS` DUE FOR REPLY ON 2-12-2002.

(a) USA, Canada, South Africa, Argentina, MÃ©xico, China, Australia and India have approved the commercial release of Genetically Modified Seeds. Globally area of transgenic crops increased more than thirty fold, from 1.7 million ha in 1996 to 52.6 million has in 2001.

(b), (c) & (d) Bt Cotton is the first and only transgenic crop approved by The Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) for commercial cultivation in India. The three approved hybrid varieties (Bt MECH-162, Bt. MECH-184, Bt. MECH-12) are presently unde cultivation only in six states namely Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. Some of the fields where these hybrid varieties are being cultivated have recently been monitored by a Committee constituted by this Ministry. The Committee found the performance of Bt. Cotton satisfactory.

(e) & (f) M/s Proagro PGS India Ltd. Gurgaon wholly owned subsidiary of Bayer Crop Sciences, Germany (earlier part of Aventis Crop Science SA, France) requested approval of GEAC for commercial cultivation of transgenic mustard. The GEAC in the 34th Meetinç held on 7th November, 2002 considered the proposal and deferred the decision for further examination of the data.

(g),(h) & (i) The report has been published by Greenpeace, an international NGO. As per available information, the findings of this report are said to have not been accepted by Chinese Scientists.